

Message Text

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ACTION OC-03

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P R 301341Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT PRIORITY
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FOR FRDCO

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: ACOM UR
SUBJ: COURIER SERVICE TO MOSCOW

1. AIRPORT EXCHANGES ON REGULAR BASIS AS PROPOSED BY FRDCO IN NEW SCHEDULE TO BE EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 4 WILL POSE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES FOR EMBASSY. WHILE WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COPE WITH SPECIAL COURIER AIRPORT EXCHANGES FOR SHORT PERIODS, FOR EXAMPLE DURING SECRETARY OR PRESIDENTIAL VISITS, IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY ON SUCH OCCASIONS TO USE EMBASSY PERSONNEL NOT AVAILABLE IN NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. TIME-CONSUMING, COMPLEX SOVIET PROCEDURES AT AIRPORT CONSTITUTE BASIC PROBLEM. FOR OUTGOING SERVICE TWO INDIVIDUALS AT AIRPORT ARE NECESSARY -- ONE TO STAND GUARD ON POUCHES WHILE SECOND GOES TO SEVERAL DIFFERENT SOVIET OFFICES TO SECURE NECESSARY TARMAC PASSES AND CLEARANCE PAPERS BEFORE VEHICLE, COURIER AND POUCHES CAN PROCEED TO PLANESIDE. SIMILARLY FOR INBOUND POUCHES TWO AMERICANS ARE REQUIRED AS WE MUST BE PREPARED TO COPE WITH NECESSITY FOR ONE TO GO TO SOVIET CUSTOMS OFFICE WHILE SECOND STANDS BY POUCHES.

3. DETAILING OF TWO MOSCOW C&R STAFF MEMBERS (VICE ONE AS IS NOW THE CASE) WOULD THUS BE NECESSARY FOR EVERY AIRPORT EXCHANGE. HOWEVER, SECTION IS ON 24-HOUR SERVICE SCHEDULE EVERY DAY, INVOLVING CONSIDERABLE OVERTIME FOR ALL CLERKS, AND ANY ADDITIONAL WORKLOAD ON REGULAR BASIS IS NOT FEASIBLE. ON OTHER HAND, IN PRESENT SYSTEM OF OVERNIGHT COURIER STAYS, INCOMING AND OUT-
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GOING COURIERS PROVIDE EXTRA AMERICAN REQUIRED FOR GUARDING

POUCHES WHILE CLEARANCES AND PASSES ARE BEING OBTAINED.

4. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS, REQUEST SCHEDULES
PROPOSED TO TAKE EFFECT NOVEMBER 4 BE REVISED TO ELIMINATE AIRPORT
EXCHANGES.

STOESSEL

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